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EO 12958 DECL: 01/11/2019
TAGS PREL, MAPP, PL

SUBJECT: POLAND WANTS LIVE PATRIOTS, "NOT POTTED PLANTS"

REF: 10 AUGUST 2008 U.S. NON PAPER ON DEPLOYMENT OF A U.S. PATRIOT BATTERY IN POLAND

Classified By: Ambassador Victor H. Ashe for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d)

11. (S) SUMMARY. GOP officials are not privy to the full range of U.S. planning and thinking with regard to the prospective Patriot battery rotation. PATRIOTS AND MD - CONNECTED OR NO?

12. (S) The proposed Patriot rotation was a condition of Polish agreement to sign the Ballistic Missile Defense Agreement (BMDA), and the U.S.

13. (S) The question of Patriots in Poland hung (largely silently) over the BMDA negotiations for much of last spring. The final breakthrough

14. (S) Since then both sides have used this connection to urge greater negotiating energy on the part of the other: the U.S. saying clearly that WHEN IS A PATRIOT A PATRIOT?

15. (S) The Declaration of Strategic Cooperation outlines some parameters for the proposed Patriot "deployment," allowing that a Patriot battery

16. (S) However, this is a good juncture to point out the most glaring gap in understanding between us and the Poles. The Poles have not been told WHAT IS A GARRISON? WHAT IS JOINT TRAINING?

17. (S) The GOP also has a different concept of the footprint involved when the U.S. agreed (also in the Declaration) to establish a "garrison" COMMENT

18. (S) We need to navigate the way forward carefully. We may be able to close some of the gaps between our plans and the Poles expectations without ASHE